

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	WALLEN, Claes <i>et al.</i>	Group Art Unit:	3761
Serial No.:	10/063,288	Confirmation No.	2442
Date Filed:	April 8, 2002	Examiner:	DEAK, Leslie R.
For:	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR MIXING MEDICAL FLUIDS		

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

In response to the Final Office Action mailed June 15, 2007, Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the following comments and the attached materials.

In the Office Action, despite characterizing Applicants' recitation of the type of connection between the components as a statement of function not entitled to patentable weight, the Examiner asserts that "[t]he Richmond device appears to have a friction fit between the first and second portions, which may snap into place. Absent any defining structural characteristics [in the claims], the Richmond device is capable of operating as claimed by applicant, meeting the limitations of the claim." Applicants disagree.

Recitation of a snap connection inherently carries with it recitation of structural features. In particular, any snap connection includes a part that flexes past an interfering part and then at least partially returns to its original position to secure the connection. Information regarding snap connections may be found on the Internet, in text books, and within the body of knowledge of those having skill in the art. See, for example, the attached pages describing the design of snap connections.

Richmond, in contrast, does not show a snap connection because it does not show one part that flexes past an interfering part and then at least partially returns to its original position. Rather, the connection shown in Figure 6 of Richmond (and on page 3 of the Office Action) is

one in which the second portion of the device comprising the outlet port merely slides into a groove formed in the first portion comprising the inlet port. (Subsequently, as addressed previously, the parts are bonded together.) Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the rejection and passage of this case to allowance.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 6730.020.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Tracy W. Druce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tracy" and last name "Druce" clearly distinguishable.

Tracy W. Druce, Esq.
Reg. No. 35,493